

JOURNAL

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Thursday - 3 June 1971

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1. [REDACTED] Received a call from Barbara Perry in the office of Senator Ribicoff (D., Conn.), requesting an interview for a constituent, [REDACTED] Arrangements were made with [REDACTED] OP, for tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

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3. [REDACTED] Accompanied Messrs. James Frey and James Taylor, of OMB, and Mr. John Clarke, OPPE, to a meeting with Messrs. Woodruff and Preston, of the Senate and House Appropriations Committee staffs. At the meeting Mr. Frey brought up the subject of interim funding for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty and proposed a transfer of funds from DOD to CIA in an amount equivalent to one year's budget for the Radios. Woodruff opposed but said he would take up with Senators Ellender (D., La.) and Young (R., N. Dak.) an alternative proposal made by Mr. Frey to carry interim funding under the continuing resolution. Mr. Preston indicated that Mr. Mahon has previously indicated that he has no objection to the continuing resolution approach. (See Mr. Clarke's Memorandum for the Record) Mr. David Abshire, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, was advised of the discussions.

Bill Woodruff called later to say that he had talked with Chairman Ellender about the Radios and Ellender has told him that he would not agree to any continued funding of the Radios which was not in the open. With regard to the use of the continuing resolution, Woodruff said Ellender "didn't say yes and didn't say no." He added, however, that if the Administration wished to use the continuing resolution approach, Ellender would want a letter from "somebody" to this effect. He said the letter should also indicate that there is no objection to the Chairman's stating on the floor at the time the resolution is considered that it contains interim funds for the Radios pending action on the Case bill. Woodruff said again that Ellender is not in favor of continuing the Radios and is willing to help with an appropriation to cover the cost of their termination. Mr. Abshire is being advised of this development.

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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Wednesday - 2 June 1971

Page 4

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12. [] Met with Ed Braswell and Jack Ticer, of the Senate Armed Services Committee staff, and delivered a revised version of copies of papers dealing with the legal position [] which had been given them earlier.

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Braswell said we should be prepared for a rough time when the Defense authorization bill reaches the floor this year. He said the whole question of legality of the war in Indochina would undoubtedly be brought up, and various bills and amendments would be introduced to restrict the Administration's freedom of action in conducting this war. Braswell thinks that legislation [] has a chance of passing.

Braswell said Chairman Stennis was particularly concerned to get some authoritative statement from the Administration as to U.S. policy and objectives in Indochina. Without this, said Braswell, it was impossible for Stennis to know what new bills and amendments would represent a threat to the achievement of these objectives. Braswell said it was impossible to expect Stennis to defend the Administration's position without knowing what that position was. I told him this was a national policy question which CIA was in no position to speak to.

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I explained to Braswell the Director's desire to meet with Chairman Stennis in the near future and review with him the history of our relations with the Congress, and particularly the Foreign Relations Committee and Senators Symington (D., Mo.) and Fulbright (D., Ark.), []

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[] I called attention to the Spencer Rich article in the 29 May Washington Post indicating Symington plans to call for a secret session of the Senate to review the sad story of the war in Laos. Braswell said that in view of the Chairman's schedule he thought next week would be better than this week for such a meeting. He said it would be very helpful if the Director would provide the Chairman with an aide-memoire at that time summarizing the main points he would like to leave with the Chairman.

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13. [] Talked with [] and told him that the briefing of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee was scheduled for Friday, 11 June. I told him he would undoubtedly be hearing from the Committee on this but as of now Mr. Woodruff is planning to have a transcript.

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